NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
June 25, 1999

The Tibetan Art of Healing

On Saturday, June 26 a beautiful and fascinating exhibition opens to the public at The Field Museum. ***The Tibetan Art of Healing*** will guide visitors through the ancient medical traditions of Tibet as they have been practiced for over a thousand years and as they are depicted in ninety intricate painted *thangkas*.

What the public will *not* see are the extraordinary efforts required to prepare this exhibition in time for its publicized opening. As most of the Museum staff is aware, the exhibition of Tibetan art originally planned was canceled by its owners with virtually no advance notice. The result? With barely two months to go the exhibit team was forced back to the drawing board to radically revise almost every detail of the planned show.

This involved negotiating to obtain another traveling set of paintings; accessing Tibetan *thangkas* from our own collections to mount, mat, and frame; arranging to borrow art from a private collector, performing condition reports and conservation and creating mounts for the work; re-designing the exhibit floor plan, re-writing all of the text labels, modifying existing display cases to exhibit the added works; and installing the entire exhibition in less than five days. It is a testament to the professionalism of everyone at The Field Museum that these tasks, which would normally take as long as six months, were accomplished in a matter of weeks with no compromise to the Museum's exacting standards.

Thanks for this effort begin at the top: none other than Museum President **John McCarter** acted as our "agent" to locate rare private works for display and make the formal request of their owner. Curator of Asian Collections **Ben Bronson** advised Exhibit Developers **Peter Stevenson** and **Shelly Ulrich** as they sifted through volumes of specialized knowledge to organize the artwork and compose labels; Conservator **Holly Lundberg** performed condition reports and conservation on the fragile ancient works at a moment's notice, **Bronwyn Eves** and **Candice Grace** condition-reported the entire show in record time, and **Pam Gaible** advised **Rudy Garcia** on the creation of customized mounts for the works. Of special note is the quiet, meditative exhibit space created by Exhibit Designer **Robert Weiglein**, Graphic Designer **David Hodges**, Graphic Technician **John Petreikis**, and Lighting Designer **Trigg Waller.** And, of course, the breakneck installation could not have been accomplished without the experienced hand of Production Supervisor **Paul Brunsvold** and his crew: **David Hanke**, **Bruce Heimbach**, **Eric Himes**, **Joseph Hu**, **Lance Kirsch**, **John Henry Marshall**, and Crew Chief **Scott Smith**. Thanks also to **Joe Byrnes**, **Julie Pitzen**, and **Mara-Cosillo-Starr** of the Education Department, who have developed a colorful series of programs and events surrounding the show. And a special thanks goes to **Tyana Wachter**, who left her desk in the Botany Department time and again to act as our unofficial go-between and smooth out the rough spots in the road.

We feel sure that, through the efforts of all those named above, His Holiness the Dalai Lama will visit The Field Museum on August 28 and find ***The Tibetan Art of Healing*** expressing perfectly the unique richness of Tibet's cultural heritage.

Submitted by **David Foster**

FIELD NOTES

Week of June 28

Public Events/Special Events

Museum Open Until 8 p.m.
- Thursday

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tae Bo Class
- Monday 5 p.m.
  Ground Floor, East Stairwell

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday 5 p.m.
  Ground Floor, East Stairwell
  Thursday 5 p.m. Clrm A

Tuesday Noon Seminar Series
- Zoology Clrm

Running Club
- Wednesday 5 p.m.
  Meets at West Door

ATTENTION MOVIE BUFFS

Call or stop by the Human Resources office for discounted movie tickets for Loews/Cineplex Odeon/Sony Theatres for only $5. (Check your newspaper to make sure discounted tickets may be used for your movie.) THERE IS AN EIGHT-WEEK DELAY FOR STAR WARS TICKETS.

NOTICE FROM THE EDITORS

Erica Kelly has moved to the Education Department and will no longer be acting as co-editor of the Natural News. Please continue to direct all submissions to **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 7286) via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Chernoff featured on NPR's "Morning Edition"

"National Geographic's Radio Expeditions," a regular feature of National Public Radio's "Morning Edition" series, devoted two recent installments to the Aquatic Rapid Assessment Program, giving prominent attention to Curator **Barry Chernoff** of Zoology (Fishes), the AquaRAP leader. Reporter Christopher Joyce traveled with the international AquaRAP team as they surveyed the San Pedro River in Guatemala, part of the Peten, the largest freshwater wetland in all of Central America. AquaRAP attempts to determine what impact certain environmental threats would have on aquatic systems, and thus provides information about sustainable use of those ecosystems. By considering humans to be part of the ecosystem, the program promotes efforts at sustainable use in order to protect the maximal amount of biodiversity possible. In the June 7 program, Joyce trained his microphone on the AquaRAP icthyology team, capturing some of their activities (including Barry as he offers moral support to Conservation International vice president Jim Nations' efforts to reel in a fish). In the interview, Barry notes that while the nearby forests tend to get more attention, the water habitats are critical for biodiversity. The audience also hears Barry plunge into the river to seine for fish, bearing out his comment that one of the reasons for AquaRAP's success is that it attracts "people who are uniformly crazy" enough to jump into crocodile-rich rivers to collect specimens. As an unexpected bonus Barry discovered among that day's catch a new species in the group of fishes that he studies. Barry points out in the interview that "fishes hold the history of the world inside their bodies," suggesting that such organisms are valuable because they carry information about the history of the earth in their genes, morphologies, behaviors, and so on. Our ability to recover that information is a function of our imagination and technology. Another edition of the show broadcast on June 10 featured Barry in a shorter segment.

Museum Welcomes New Pritzker Molecular Lab Manager

The Office of Academic Affairs and the Molecular Management Group is pleased to welcome **Lutz Bachmann** as the new manager of the Pritzker Laboratory for Molecular Systematics and Evolution. Lutz comes to the Field from a lectureship at the University of Hohenheim, Germany. He received a Doctorate in Natural Sciences from the University of Tübingen in 1990. His dissertation involved the study of satellite DNA in *Drosophila obscura*. He has published over 20 scientific papers on the genetics of *Drosophila*, cave crickets, lemurs, millipedes and other creatures. Lutz has taught classes in biology, genetics, and evolution at both Tübingen and Hohenheim. On the laboratory side, he has extensive experience in a variety of molecular techniques (including working with ancient DNA from Neanderthals), and genetic and phylogenetic analysis software. Later in the the year, Lutz will be joined in Chicago by his wife, Jutta, and daugher, Rebecca. Willkommen, Lutz!

The Field Museum

President's Address

Tuesday 29 June

last names beginning A–M
9.00 am – 10.00 am

coffee and bagels
10.00 am

last names beginning N–Z
10.30 am – 11.30 am

Montgomery Ward Lecture Hall

DOWNTOWN THURSDAY NIGHT 1999 SUMMERTIME EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM CAMPUS

Thursdays, 6/3 - 9/30
Jazzin' at the Shedd
5 - 10 p.m.
1200 S. Lake Shore Dr., 312.939.2438, www.sheddnet.org. Harmonize with the halibut this summer as the Shedd Aquarium offers this popular program every Thursday night, featuring a special late-night opportunity to see the renovated Caribbean Reef Exhibit. After 5 p.m. on Thursdays, admission to the Aquarium, Oceanarium, "Seahorse Symphony," and Jazzin' at the Shedd is $3 for adults, children, and seniors. Members are **FREE.**

Thursdays, 6/3 - 8/26
CAF Museum Campus Tour
6 p.m.
Foot of the steps, Shedd Aquarium, 312.922.3432, www.architecture.org. Enjoy a one-hour walking tour that features the architecture of the 3 natural sciences museums on the campus. The tour is $5; **FREE** for Chicago Architecture Foundation members. No reservations are required.

Thursdays, 7/1- 9/2
Luna Cabana
5 - 9 p.m.
1300 S. Lake Shore Dr., 312.322.0329, www.adlerplanetarium.org. Take a trip to the tropics without leaving Chicago during Luna Cabana. Join us for sizzling live Caribbean-themed music, food, and tropical drinks. **FREE** museum admission all night.

Thursdays, 6/17 - 8/26
Field Nights!
5 - 8 p.m.
Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Dr., 312.922.9410, www.fmnh.org. Come enjoy Field Nights! Don't miss our new permanent exhibition Underground Adventure, where you'll get shrunk down to the size of a bug to discover a whole new world the one beneath your feet. **FREE** general admission Thursday nights. (Timed tickets to Underground Adventure may be purchased at the Museum)

Everyday
12th Street Beach
12th Street at the Lake, just south of the Adler Planetarium. Take a walk or a swim this summer at one of Chicago's best kept secrets. 12th Street is family-friendly with a modern comfort station. Come to cool off and get a great view of Meigs Field take-off's and landings for **FREE.**

Everyday
Americas' Courtyard Public Art Sculpture
Appropriate for its location adjacent to the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, this sculpture embodies the spiral shape of galaxies, while being reminiscent of ancient observatories. Any clear morning or evening during the year, park visitors may check the progress of the seasons for **FREE** by seeing where the Sun rises or sets between these two extremes.

VISIT THE MUSEUM CAMPUS THURSDAY NIGHTS THIS SEASON. THE GRAND PUBLIC SPACE WITH A STUNNING BACK-DROP IS THE PREMIER OUTDOOR LOCATION FOR SUMMERTIME ACTIVITIES.

1999

July

1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Down Town Thursday Nights-Open till 8:00pm *Taste of Chg/Grant Pk*	2 Kiwanis Key Club-SFH 6:00pm-10:00pm 1000 *Taste of Chg/Grant Pk* Fire vs Dallas 7:30pm	3 *Taste of Chg/Grant Pk*
4 July 4th Holiday *Taste of Chg/Grant Pk*	5	6	7 BAdams-JST/Budda Exhibit/Grd Flr 3pm-10pm	8 Down Town Thursday Nights-Open till 8:00pm BAdams-JST 3pm-10pm	9 Chg Yacht Club-JST 5:00pm-7:00pm M.Huff-SFH/Terraces 4:30pm-11:00pm	10 Fire vs NY 7:30pm NHL Breakout
11 JKrynytzky-SFH 4:00pm-11:00pm NHL Breakout	12 RPatience-2nd Museum Clean-Up-SFH 8am-9am	13 2nd Museum Clean-Up Membership-JST 5:00pm-11:00pm 900	14 2nd Museum Clean-Up	15 Down Town Thursday Nights-Open till 8:00pm 2nd Museum Clean-Up	16 2nd Museum Clean-Up T-Special Events-SFH	17 CBreslow-JST All day & evening
18	19	20	21	22 Down Town Thursday Nights-Open till 8:00pm	23 SPowell-SFH/UA 6pm-1am Fire vs San Jose 7pm	24 Jkrynytzky-Rice 4:00pm-11:00pm 75
25	26 Monsanto-SFH FLevin-Rice 6:00pm-10:00pm	27 FLevin-SFH/Rice	28	29 Down Town Thursday Nights-Open till 8:00pm	30 CAndreson-SFH 5pm-12am	31 Anderson Consulting-SFH/Bal/Terr 7:00pm-12:00am 1000 *Venetian Night/Grant Pk* Fire vs Los Angeles 3pm Pan Am Fest

MUSEUM CAMPUS NEWS

Trolleys and explorer guides

Museum Campus Chicago offers free trolley service from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through Labor Day weekend and on select holidays and weekends after Labor Day. One route picks up guests from the Soldier Field parking lots with stops at the Field, the Adler and the Shedd. The other route stops at the Field, the Adler and the Shedd and continues to the Roosevelt Road El stops (Red, Green and Orange lines) and Roosevelt Road Metra.

Improvements this year include signage in front of the trolley stops and trolleymasters who provide customer service to our guests. Wheelchair-accessible trolleys are available. Last year's summer service carried more than 980,000 passengers.

Also, watch out for Explorer Guide-toting visitors! The Museum Campus explorer guide – a free passport-sized book offering learning opportunities and fun at the Field, the Adler and the Shedd – will be released soon. Designed to encourage visitation at all three museums, the explorer guide will be made available at the Field's information center and the outdoor Museum Campus Welcome Centers.

Guests complete the guide's activities based on what they see in the Field's Sue Prep Lab, the tomb of Unis-ankh and the man-eating lions of Tsavo and return to the information or Welcome Center to get their guide stamped. Once explorers complete all three museums' activities, they are given a collectible Museum Campus Explorer patch. A special thank you to Joe Byrne and Mary Ellen Munley for their invaluable help in this project!

Cows on the Moo-seum Campus

by Katie McGinley, Shedd Aquarium

No, that wasn't your imagination playing tricks on your way to work Tuesday morning – cows are staked out on the Museum Campus! As part of the Chicago Park District's celebration of *Cows on Parade*, a herd of nine cows have moo-ved to the Campus.

Don't miss seeing the patriotic U.S. cow. If you look closely, this innocent-looking Holstein displays all 50 states in its brown and black spots. On your way home tonight, check out the Solar Cow Lantern – a 580-pound fiberglass cow that has solar panels on its back and a battery in its udder to shine bright on summer nights. If you're not too much of a cow-ard, take a look on top of Soldier Field to see another one perched on the roof.

Cows on Parade is a public art exhibition featuring more than 300 cows grazing along the Magnificant Mile, in the Loop and on the Museum Campus. Designed by artists commissioned by the city and private sources, the cows will be on display until the end of October, when they'll be auctioned for charity. The idea for the collection of cows stemmed from a display in Zurich, Switzerland, that increased tourism by more than 1 million people in 1998. Maps of all locations of *Cows on Parade* will be available at Chicago Visitors' Information Centers in July. Grab your co-workers and check out the collection of *Cows on Parade!*

Submitted by **Christina Breslow**

Field Nights are here!

The Field Museum is once again participating in the city's Downtown Thursday Night program. As a part of the citywide effort to encourage people to take advantage of Chicago's great cultural offerings after work, the Museum will remain open until 8 p.m. every Thursday from June 17 through August 26. On these special Thursdays, general admission will be free after 5 p.m. Please encourage your friends and families to come down after work and enjoy all that The Field Museum has to offer.

Submitted by **Marla Camp**

A special seminar, Tuesday at noon

This coming Tuesday, the June 29, Dr. Ulrik Sochting will be speaking to us on the subject of "The Lichen Genera *Xanathoria* and *Caloplaca*: morphogenesis reevaluated on the basis of metabolites and molecular data." Dr. Sochting is with the Department of Mycology at the University of Copenhagen, and a Visiting Bass Scholar. Please join us at 12 noon in the Zoology classroom on June 29.

Noon seminars will shift to Thursdays this fall

Please note that we are planning to hold our seminar series on Thursdays next fall, instead of Tuesdays. The Biology Department of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) has a regularly scheduled semInar on Tuesdays, and since we have a number of graduate students from UIC who may wish to attend both seminars we decided to shift our meetings to Thursdays. We regret whatever inconvenience this may cause, but after taking a poll of the academic staff we decided that Thursdays would be best.

Submitted by **Bill Burger**

New coordinator named for the Women's Board

The Institutional Advancement area announces a staff change in the Women's Board office. **Cindy Andresen** has accepted a position with the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business, where she will be Associate Director for Alumni Relations with responsibility for Club Development. Cindy's last day at the Museum will be Monday, June 28. On Tuesday, June 29, **Kalli Hilbrenner** will succeed Cindy as the Women's Board Coordinator. Before coming to the Museum, Kalli worked as a press secretary for Senator Christopher Bond of Missouri and for the Cook County Republican Party. Kalli has been working on special projects in the Development Office for several months, and we are pleased to promote her to this new responsibility.

We wish the very best for both Cindy and Kalli in their new positions.

Submitted by **Willard White**

ATTENTION DOG LOVERS!

Linus the lovable shepherd mix needs a new home because I'm moving. He was the runt of the litter so he's not full grown. His ears are floppy and his coat is long with black and tan coloring. Linus is very playful and hates to be left alone. There is no adoption fee because he's not fixed and is due for a refill of anti-parasite medication. Adoption would include all his toys, collars, leashes, grooming supplies, bed, and dog care books. He's house trained and has some basic obedience training. Must adopt by July 1 please. If interested contact **Michael Sherman** in Visitor Service (West door ext. 7056) or call (773)523-4478.

MORE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Jim VanStone honored with special edition of Arctic Anthropology

The most recent issue of the journal *Arctic Anthropology* is dedicated to Curator Emeritus **Jim VanStone** (Anthropology). "No Boundaries: Papers in Honor of James W. VanStone" kicks off with five articles on Jim, his career, and his research (including a piece by Curator **Ben Bronson**), and are followed up by a bibliography of his work – over 140 publications from 1950 to 1998. Most of the other twelve articles in this special volume are directly related to Jim's contributions to the anthropology of the north. The title "No Boundaries" refers to Jim's crossing of cultural, geographical, topical, and especially disciplinary boundaries. In an age of "hyper-specialized anthropology," the volume's editors note, his work is "eminently unclassifiable." Jim's colleague Wendell Oswalt, quoted in the volume's introduction, provides a fitting tribute: "The contributions of Jim VanStone to anthropological studies in the American North are without precedent. No anthropologist, living or dead, can begin to approach the breadth and depth of his achievements. Prehistoric and historic archaeology, community studies, ethnohistories, Russian translations, ethnological works, and editorial involvements represent examples. Will there be another Jim in northern studies? I doubt it." As the editors note, this Festschrift is not a career postscript but an acknowledgment of excellence, and an encouragement to keep up the good work. Congratulations, Jim, for a well-deserved honor.

Welcome to Jennifer Steinbachs, our Computational Biologist

The Office of Academic Affairs welcomes **Dr. Jennifer Steinbachs**, a recent graduate in plant population genetics from the University of Connecticut, who took up her position as Computational Biologist on June 1. Jennifer is a broadly trained evolutionary biologist with a strong background in many aspects of both biology and mathematics. Her dissertation research focused on the theoretical aspects of plant mating system evolution, particularly that of gametophytic self-incompatibility. Jennifer also has a Master of Science degree in Mathematical Biology and is very adept with compiling, installing, and using a wide variety of computational tools used in biological studies. She is thoroughly familiar with many aspects of system administration in multi-user environments, especially UNIX, and she will be setting up a high performance computer cluster for the analysis of molecular data. With her unusual strengths in both theoretical and computational biology, Jennifer will play an active and important cross-cutting role in bioinformatics training at the Museum across all Departments, Information Services, and the Pritzker Molecular Lab.

Steinbachs and Pryer awarded Sun workstation

Jennifer Steinbachs (our newly hired Computational Biologist) and **Kathleen Pryer** (Assistant Curator, Botany) were recently notified by Sun Microsystems that their Academic Equipment Grant was approved. With this grant, Sun will be donating a mid-range workstation, the UltraSPARC 10, for use in small computational biology projects. Receipt of this workstation will mark the beginning of serious large-scale data analysis at The Field Museum, to be followed soon by the purchase of similar high-performance computers with recently awarded NSF funds from the Major Research Instrumentation Program. Together these will form the core of a long-awaited computer cluster at the Museum for the analysis of molecular data. As the amount of biological data increases exponentially, computational biologists play an increasingly integral role in the analysis of those data sets in an attempt to ensure that researchers have the most useful computational tools, both hardware and software, for their needs.

STILL MORE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

What a long, strange trip it's been . . .

The Department of Anthropology and the Center for Cultural Understanding and Change wish a fond farewell to **Sheryl Heidenreich**. Sheryl has accepted a position as Assistant Professor and Librarian at the University of Nebraska, Kearney. As she put it, "there's very little that can compete with the North Platte River." The position at the University of Nebraska is an opportunity Sheryl has trained for and sought, and offers many career-building challenges. Sheryl started at The Field Museum in 1972, and has served in Anthropology steadily since 1986. We are deeply grateful to Sheryl for the many years of service she has provided to the department, her thorough professionalism, and her dedication to excellence. We will sorely miss her as will all of her friends throughout the building. Her last day will be July 2.

Students to work and learn in the Insect Division

The staff of the Insect Division are pleased to welcome BugCamp students and the Biodiversity Explorers to The Field Museum this summer.

BugCamp is a summer entomology course for seventh and eighth grade students. **Bill Ballard**, Head of the Insect Division, developed the program, which offers ten motivated students the opportunity to perform scientific work at the Museum for six weeks. This summer, **Jane Zimmerman** is serving as program coordinator and instructor. BugCamp has received funding from the National Science Foundation and The Nancy Ryerson Ranney Leadership Grant Program. The Biodiversity Explorers are five high school interns who will be instructed and supervised by **Jim Louderman**. This is the fifth year the Museum has hosted the Biodiversity Explorers, and the first year the Explorers have worked in the Insect Division. **Petra Sierwald** and **Margaret Thayer** are serving as program coordinators. The interns will be participating in the Swallow Cliff restoration program, learning collecting techniques, and sorting and identifying specimens. They will also curate part of the beetle collection. The internship also includes weekly behind-the-scenes tours, arranged by **Mark Alvey** of Academic Affairs. The Bannerman Foundation, the Hyndman Scholarship Fund, the Wood Internship Fund, and the Office of Academic Affairs fund the Biodiversity Explorers.

BugCamp will meet Monday through Thursday, June 21 through July 29. The Biodiversity Explorers will meet Monday through Friday, June 28 through August 20.

BugCamp Students

Corbin Blankenstein, St. Clement School, Chicago
Gregory Boher, The University of Chicago Lab School, Chicago
Russell O. Burton, St. Clement School, Chicago
Ryan Kozlowski, St. Clement School, Chicago
Alexander Lawson, The Ancona School, Chicago
Katja Mimms, The University of Chicago Lab School, Chicago
Ivan Rice, The Ancona School, Chicago
Andrew E. Silva, St. Clement School, Chicago
Kevin Sullivan, Wilmette Junior High School, Wilmette

Biodiversity Explorers

Gregory Burks, St. Joseph High School, Westchester
Stephanie Kawka, Maine South High School, Park Ridge
Ashley Macknica, Naperville North High School
Diana Sheffield, Willows Academy, Des Plaines
Damian Warshall, Brother Rice High School